

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in Oregon and Idaho

Issues

- Oregon and Idaho contain thousands of miles of rivers and streams essential to anadromous fish species, such as salmon. Oregon, with 1,410 miles of Pacific coastline, 22 major estuaries, numerous minor estuaries, and tidally influenced freshwater systems, supports marine mammals and a variety of economically important fisheries, including oysters, crabs, and finfish species.
- Chronic releases of numerous hazardous substances occurring over a period of decades degraded a nine mile stretch of the lower Willamette River, a designated Superfund Site in Portland.
- Toxic releases of metals and other hazardous substances associated with mining activities threaten salmon stream habitat in Idaho.
- Spills associated with the transport of hazardous substances impact rivers and streams.

What we do

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) acts as a trustee for natural resources on behalf of the public. DARRP collaborates with federal, state, and tribal entities and also works with cleanup agencies (such as EPA), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to:

- protect coastal and marine natural resources;
- respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances;
- assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and
- restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits.

How we do it

DARRP acts as a trustee for natural resources to:

- work cooperatively with those responsible for the incident;
- develop innovative approaches and techniques for remediation and restoration;
- work with the public to select restoration options to compensate for injuries to natural resources; and
- design and implement or oversee natural resource restoration projects and monitor their success.



Blackbird Mine, Lemhi County, Idaho - see case highlights.

DARRP Accomplishments

- Restoration and/or protection of 81 acres of freshwater and terrestrial habitats in Idaho (completed and planned activities).
- Settlements have resulted in 6 protection and restoration projects in Oregon and Idaho.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 6 hazardous waste sites.



Portland Harbor Superfund Site, Portland, Oregon - see case highlights.

2007 DARRP Activities & Associated Restoration Sites

- ▲ Hazardous Waste Site
- Spill Case



Historic and ongoing case highlights

- Portland Harbor Superfund Site, Portland, OR – Completed a preassessment screening of potential injuries to natural resources, such as sturgeon (*bottom photo on page 1*); providing modeling, ecological risk assessment, and spatial analysis expertise to inform cleanup decisions and ensure the selection of a remedy that is protective of natural resources in the lower Willamette River.
- Beaver Creek Gasoline Spill Site, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation, OR – Completed a damage assessment; the case was settled in 2006. Settlement will provide funding for a suite of in-stream and riparian restoration activities to improve habitat for salmon and steelhead.
- Blackbird Mine, Lemhi County, ID – Planning restoration for livestock exclusion fencing, re-meandering of straightened stream reaches, creation of off-channel habitat, and reintroduction of Chinook salmon in response to contamination from an inactive mine that released copper and other hazardous materials into Panther Creek (*top photo on page 1*).

For further information about DARRP, please visit
<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>

